

Message Text

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22

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 STR-04 OPIC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC EGEN EFIN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: GENEVA 6319

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THE ONLY CURRENTLY PENDING QUESTION WITH REGARD TO OUR PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS (L/530) IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR AN 18 MAN GROUP. THIS IS AN OLD ECOSOC FORMULA AND INVOLVES THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION: AF-3, LA-3, ASIAN-3, SOVIET BLOC-3, AND WEO'S-6 (INCLUDING JAPAN). IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS A SOMEWHAT OBSOLETE FORMULA, IT WILL BE PROBLEMATIC FOR LA'S AND WEO'S TO REDUCE THEIR WOULD-BE PARTICIPANTS TO THESE LIMITS. FOR EXAMPLE, ASSUMING CARIBBEANS GET ONE LA SLOT, IT WOULD LEAVE ONLY TWO SLOTS WITH BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, AND CUBA IN THE RUNNING. FOR THE WEO'S, THE KEY QUESTION IS WHETHER THE EC-9 ARE WILLING TO BE REPRESENTED BY ONE SPOKESMAN.

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2. OUR GUESS, REPORTED REFTTEL, IS THAT IN THE INFORMAL

CONSULTATIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN GROUPS OVER THE NEXT MONTH, THE COMPROMISE MAY HAVE TO BE TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE WORKING GROUP. UNDER EXISTING ECOSOC FORMULAS (BASED ON ADEQUATE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION), THE MOST ACCEPTABLE SIZE IS 27 DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS: AF-5, LA-4, ASIAN-4, SOVIET BLOC-3, AND WEO'S-11. (THE SUBSEQUENT MAGIC NUMBER IS 48.)

3. USDEL HAS NOT RAISED THIS ISSUE IN PUBLIC. IN THE INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FINAL TEXT, WE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A SMALL WORKING GROUP SO AS TO BE EFFECTIVE AND THE SIZE 18 WAS ACCEPTED ALMOST BY DEFAULT. (THE UK AND FRG DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION AT OUR REQUEST NOT TO MUDDY THE WATERS WHILE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RES WAS STILL IN DOUBT.) IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO STICK AT 18, ESPECIALLY IF EC-9 ARE WILLING TO HAVE ONLY ONE SPOKESMAN, AND THIS WILL BE THE THRUST OF OUR EFFORTS OVER THE NEXT MONTH. AT THE MOMENT, WE ARE SIMPLY FLAGGING THIS PROBLEM. CATTO

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